

# REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Sept. 1 - Oct. 1, 1919

The activities of the past month augur well for the renewal of the interest in our work for which we had hoped. An informal meeting of the Phyllis Wheatley Home Committee brought out a number of members who had not attended meetings for some time past. There was among them a unanimous expression of enthusiasm which showed an anxiousness to get back to their original work and get necessary jobs done. The Black Dance given to purchase furniture for the second floor was a recreational as well as financial success; \$225.61 being the amount cleared.

Activities for the month:

Employment. - The recommendation for the employment of a Colored nurse in the Department of Child Hygiene at Camden, N.J., has been approved and the applicant, Miss Laurel Clark, graduate nurse of Lincoln Hospital began her duties October 1st. There have been 286 applications for work. Of these 115 were new registrants. Applications for men were 117  
" women " 150

" boys & girls 19

Of this number 152 were placed, of whom 60 were men, 96 women, and 7 boys & girls. Most of the placements were casual workers but a few jobs needed the especially trained persons and they were secured.

Meetings and Conferences. - An Association of the Colored Social Workers of Essex County which includes the Secretaries of the Y.M.C.A. & Y.W.C.A. of Orange and Montclair, the Secretary of the N. Orange Social Settlement, Secretary of the War Camp Community Service, two city nurses of Newark, the Patron of Phyllis Wheatley Home, and Secretary of the Urban League. The purpose of the Association is to discuss in common and advise means to meet as far as possible the common social problems of the Negroes in Essex County. The Secretary of the Urban League was elected Chairman of the Association. Educational meetings were held during the month. At one, Miss Elizabeth Price of the J.H. Ledlow Company spoke on Health. The other was on Labor the speaker being Henry Hilfers, Secretary of the N. J. State Federation of Labor. The Urban League was used as the Headquarters of the Women's Division of the National Baptist Convention. During the Convention hundreds of men and women from various sections of the country came into the building, many of whom spoke commendably of the League's work.

Publicity and Co-operation. - The Sale of City feed was continued for the first few days in the month.

The following letters were written in interest of the League:

- (1) to ministers, business men and manufacturers employing Negroes.
- (2) the ministers of the Colored churches in the county urging them to advise their parishioners to attend night schools.

Executive Sec'y was requested to express the sympathy of the

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- (3) to the President to appoint a Negro as a conferee to the National Labor Conference beginning in Washington, October 6.
- (4) assisting the Bureau of War Risk Insurance to encourage Negro soldiers to keep up their insurances.

**Recreation.-**

The Girl Scouts and the Selika-Johnson Glee Club have resumed their meetings for fall and winter.

**Cases.-** Four families have applied to us for rooms. One wanted assistance getting reimbursement for boarding a boy. One wanted advice as to where they could be borrowed on property. Two wanted information as to how to secure settlement of a death claim. Others include incarceration in prison; reporting a mendicant to the Police Department.

In addition to notifying former contributors on the anniversary of their gifts for a renewal of their subscription, a general appeal letter is being prepared to go to some hundreds of philanthropic people in the community who have never given us anything.

I wish again to call to the Board's attention the necessity for action upon the report of the Committee appointed at our last meeting to confirm the permanent employment work and engage also a competent Case Worker. These two positions would in a very large way, give us the staff necessary for carrying out our programs. It would give us two, the opportunity to have the Executive Secretary engage more effectively in making known the work of the League. Such staff would make our complete budget for a year not more than \$5500. Surely work will pay that for the kind of work we are trying to do. It should be borne in mind also that the \$2500 asked for and raised to carry on the work for the six months beginning July 1st to January 1st, provided for Executive Secretary, Case Worker, Placement Clerk, and Stenographer. These with other expenses can be carried for the rest of the year for not more than \$12,000.

As the Phyllis Wheatley Committee has agreed to bear the responsibility of making the building pay its own way, by rentals, concerts, etc, I feel that to undertake the putting on of the two said workers immediately is a safe and operative thing to do. I therefore, most respectfully urge the Board's action on these matters at its earliest convenience;

Respectfully submitted,

*William M. Ashby*

Executive Secretary.

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